



AGENDA

ORANGE COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024, 6:00 p.m.



IRVINE RANCH HISTORIC PARK
OC PARKS HEADQUARTERS
13042 OLD MYFORD ROAD
IRVINE, CA

DAVID SHAWVER
Chair
Inland Cities

BERT ASHLAND
Vice Chair
First District

HALLIE JONES
Fifth District

RAY DIAZ
Second District

ERIK WEIGAND
Coastal Cities

DAVID HANSON
Third District

VACANT
Fourth District

Executive Officer
Pam Passow

The Orange County Parks Commission welcomes you to this meeting. This agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. The Commission encourages your participation and welcomes public comments on items under the purview of the Commission. If you wish to speak on a matter that does not appear on the agenda, you may do so during the Public Participation period at the beginning of the meeting. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda. When addressing the Commission, please state your name for the record prior to providing your comments. Speakers may be limited to three (3) minutes. Public speaker request forms will be available onsite.

The OC Parks Commission meeting will be an in-person meeting held at the Mess Hall at OC Parks' Headquarters (13042 Old Myford Road, Irvine, CA 92602). Please be advised that County health guidelines apply to this meeting: <https://ocovid19.ochealthinfo.com/article/oc-health-officers-orders-recommendations>

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodations for this meeting should notify OC Parks 72 hours prior to the meeting at Admin.ocparkscommission@ocparks.com or (949) 585-6431.

All supporting documentation is available for public review at <https://www.ocparks.com/about-us/commissions-and-committees/oc-parks-commission> under the "Agendas and Minutes" link or by calling 949-585-6431 during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

OC COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Orange County Parks Commission Duties and Responsibilities

(O.C. Codified Ordinances Sec. 2-2-19: Paraphrased)

Except as otherwise provided, the Orange County Parks Commission shall be advisory to the Board of Supervisors and to the Director of OC Parks, and shall have the power and duty:

1. To recommend to the Board of Supervisors plans and policies for the acquisition, development, maintenance and operation of the harbors, beaches and regional parks of the County;
2. On request of the Board of Supervisors, to advise the Board and make recommendations on any matter pertaining to harbors, beaches and regional parks, and any other matters referred by the Board;
3. On request of the Director, to advise on any question of administrative policy and regarding any matter to be decided by the Director under this division;
4. On appeal from an administrative decision by the Director, to act as a board of administrative review;
5. To make such investigations as it may deem necessary in the exercise of its powers;
6. To perform the duties and functions of the County Fish and Game Commission assigned by either statute or this code, and consider methods for the propagation and protection of fish and game in the State of California and County of Orange. The Commission shall be advisory body to the Board of Supervisors.

OC Parks Commission Regular Meeting Schedule: First Thursday, Monthly, 6:00 p.m.

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I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At this time, members of the public may address the Commission on items of public interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission and are not contained in tonight's agenda.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A)

The following item(s) on the consent calendar will be approved by one motion unless a Commissioner requests to pull a specific item.

A. APPROVE COMMISSION MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 30, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING

V. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A–B)

A. OC PARKS TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE

Staff will provide an update to the Commission regarding the January 11, 2024 OC Parks Trails Subcommittee meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

B. RANGER ACADEMY 9 TRAINING PRESENTATION

Staff will provide a presentation that details the recruitment and training process for Park Rangers.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

VI. OC PARKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

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B. UPCOMING OC PARKS EVENTS

World Wetlands Day: Paint Night – Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve – February 2 – 6 – 8 p.m.

- In recognition of World Wetlands Day, join us for a guided painting program to learn more about the history of Upper Newport Bay, the important roles our wetlands serve and how we can help protect them. This fun and engaging program will include a brief wetlands talk followed by a guided painting program. Each participant will paint and take home their own canvas.

Winter Bird Walk – Mile Square Regional Park – February 3 – 8 – 10 a.m.

- Mile Square Regional Park has some of the highest bird diversity in Orange County and this gentle-paced walk led by highly trained OC Parks volunteers will help bird watchers of all experience levels discover what the park has to offer. All are welcome and loaner binoculars will be available.

Adaptation Spotlight: Our Five Senses – Laguna Coast Wilderness Park – February 7 – 3 – 4:30 p.m.

- Join OC Park naturalists in exploring how you use your five senses to interpret the world around you. We will put your senses to the test, hypothesize reasons for why plants smell so nice and why deer have such large ears, all while enjoying a short hike along Mary's Trail.

Wilderness Access Day: Gypsum Canyon Wilderness – February 10, February 24 – 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

- Come explore OC Parks' newest trails at Gypsum Canyon Wilderness through this self-guided opportunity. Located within OC Parks' Irvine Ranch Open Space, Gypsum Canyon Wilderness features 6 miles of new trails for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. Two lookout points offer sweeping views of the surrounding canyons and unique prehistoric rock formations, while seven new trails provide multiple loop options that vary in distance and range from easy to moderate in difficulty. Visitors will have the opportunity to provide voluntary feedback about Gypsum Canyon Wilderness through on-site participation surveys and offer naming suggestions for several unnamed trails.

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Paint & (Bring Your Own) Wine Nite: Love in the Wild – OC Zoo – February 10 – 5 – 6:30 p.m.

- Are you looking for a great date idea or a fun time with friends? Join us after hours at the OC Zoo for an evening of creative fun! Come learn about courtship and mating in the animal world in this Valentine's Day-themed program. You'll also meet some zoo animals up close!

Wilderness Access Day: Saddleback Wilderness – February 17 – 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

- Come explore 3.3-miles of new trails at Saddleback Wilderness, part of OC Parks' Irvine Ranch Open Space, through this self-guided opportunity. Designated trails will be open for self-guided hiking, biking and equestrian use. There are multiple trail loop options which vary in distance and level of difficulty. Choices range from an easy one-mile loop to multiple figure-8 configurations for those looking to maximize their mileage. Regardless of distance, nearly all options feature scenic views including a destination vista point offering 360-degree perspectives from the mountains to the sea.

Birding by the Creek – Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park – February 17 – 8 – 10:30 a.m.

- Aliso Creek is one of the best riparian birding sites in Orange County and gives access for a lovely morning hike. OC Parks staff and volunteers will lead an easy 3-mile loop with 50 feet of elevation gain on uneven terrain. Travel along the creek on a dirt trail and return on a paved road while birding within the wilderness park. No experience necessary!

Explore! Fossils of the Ancient Sea Floor – Clark Regional Park – February 24 – 8:30 – 10 a.m.

- Come along for the fun, we're going on a paleo run! Don't be late, it won't be drab - we're going to look for shells and crab! Join us for a guided tour of the Clark Regional Park hillside fossil bed, followed by a trip to the Interpretive Center. Closed-toe shoes are required due to uneven terrain, and sun protection and water are recommended. The tour will meet next to parking lot A for a brief introduction. We will then walk north across Rosecrans Avenue to visit the fossil bed. After the hillside exploration we will return to the south side of Rosecrans Avenue and visit the Interpretive Center.

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Guided Beach Walk and Clean-Up – Salt Creek Beach – February 24 – 1 – 3 p.m.

- There's more to the beach than relaxing in the sun or playing in the waves on a hot summer day! Join OC Parks staff and volunteers for a casual walk along the sand at Salt Creek Beach to learn about the different flora and fauna that live along southern California beaches. The beach is a dynamic habitat, so no two walks are the same! This program will also include a discussion on marine pollution and a brief beach cleanup.

VII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND REPORT

At this time Commissioners may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters, provided that no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT